

**CLEAN WATER ACT, SECTION 106/604(b) FY 18 PRIORITIES  
FOR THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

2/9/17

| Priority Areas                                       | EPA/ADEQ FY 18 Surface Water Program Priorities   |
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| <b><i>Water Quality Standards</i></b>                | <p>1. Carry out water quality standards triennial review</p> <p>2. Expedite adoption of appropriate aquatic life and recreational uses and supporting water quality standards for Coffee Creek and Mossy Lake, and other waters lacking these uses; coordinate with EPA on Ouachita Riverkeeper Petition</p> <p>3. Develop anti-degradation implementation procedures</p> <p>4. Update and revise existing guidelines for developing site-specific minerals criteria</p> <p>If the state opts to revise its minerals criteria, develop a plan which would include options, milestones and timeline statewide minerals criteria or other surrogate measure</p> <p>5. Examine 3<sup>rd</sup> party rulemaking process and take steps to enhance communication/coordination</p>  |
| <b><i>Nutrients</i></b>                              | <p>1. Develop nutrient criteria or translators (i.e., scientifically-based benchmarks) of the narrative nutrient water quality standard suitable for assessment purposes for all waterbody types, TMDL endpoints, and water quality based effluent limits.</p> <p>2. Work with ANRC to participate on the state technical committee to refine the nutrient reduction strategy to reduce nutrient loading to the Gulf of Mexico.</p>   |
| <b><i>Biological Assessment/<br/>Biocriteria</i></b> | <p>1. Continue to improve the rigor of biological condition assessments. This could include the exploration, development, or refinement of multi-metric indices for the purpose of evaluating biological information.</p> <p>Bioassessment Critical Elements Review. A Bioassessment Critical Elements Review is a systematic third party process to evaluate the technical rigor of a state's bioassessment program. The purpose is to develop recommendations for program advancement that will enable the state to make more reliable decisions about the status of biological integrity and aquatic life use attainment. Other Region 6 states have undergone such reviews and have reported positive enhancements as a result of their participation. Regional funding of this third party review may be an option in FY 2017.</p> |

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| <p><b><i>Assessment, Listing and TMDLs</i></b></p> | <p>1. Consistent with the new Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Vision, States will develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), TMDL alternatives, and/or protection plans according to the annual WQ-27 commitment submitted at the beginning of the Fiscal Year, and consistent with the TMDL priority ranking list as specified in 40 CFR 130.7(b)(4). In keeping with the state's priority universe as described in the state's Vision priority framework, please provide a new list of annual WQ-27 commitments for FY18 in the FY18 work plan. If there are proposed changes to the state's priority universe, please provide a revised priority universe in the work plan as well.</p> <p><b>Outputs include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A responsiveness summary;</li> <li>b) if requested by EPA, copies of all comment letters received;</li> <li>c) technical support information such as the applicable water quality standard, source assessment, data analysis, water quality monitoring and modeling assumption, and calculation methods; and</li> <li>d) as appropriate, the loading capacity analysis (i.e., model), supporting input data, and a modeling report.</li> </ul> <p>2. Commitment to implement statewide statistically-valid monitoring surveys. In order to receive \$106 monitoring initiative funds for building state monitoring program capacity, states must demonstrate that they are implementing state-scale statistically-valid surveys for at least one water type as part of their state monitoring program (see EPA's 2008 document <i>Amendment to the Guidelines for the Award of Monitoring Initiative Funds under Section 106 Grants to States, Interstate Agencies, and Tribes</i> at <a href="https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2008-07-17/pdf/E8-16385.pdf">https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2008-07-17/pdf/E8-16385.pdf</a>). The results from the surveys are to be reported as a component of the state's Integrated Report/305b/303d (narrative form) and/or in EPA's Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS). Outputs include: 1) performance of statewide statistically-valid monitoring survey, and/or 2) provision of technical summary of state-scale survey data in Integrated Report or ATTAINS.</p> <p>3. EPA's Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) is presently being redesigned as part of EPA's new Water Quality Framework (<a href="https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-framework">https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-framework</a>). A new interface will be developed to provide easy submittal of state 303(d)/305(b) Integrated Reporting and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) information, as well as a single location for EPA review of 303(d) lists and TMDLs. This redesign will replace the distributed Assessment Database (ADB) by 2018. We encourage states to initiate, or continue, efforts to transition to the new ATTAINS data flow process to facilitate its completion by the 2018 Integrated Report cycle.</p> |
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| <p><b><i>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits</i></b></p> | <p>1. Provide EPA with periodic reporting (at a minimum, semi-annually) required for EPA's Program Activity Measures by reporting on overall permit universe, permit issuance, <i>major permits with nutrients limitations / monitoring</i>, MS4 coverage, MSGP coverage, CGP coverage, CAFO, SIUs, CIUs, priority permits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WQ-20a: Number and percent of major NPDES wastewater treatment plant permits with nutrient limits.</li> <li>- WQ-20b: Number and percent of major NPDES wastewater treatment plant permits with nutrient monitoring requirements.</li> </ul> <p>2. Provide EPA with a State plan to issue permits with mineral concerns.</p> <p>3. Commitment to meet Regional Current Permit Issuance Rate of 90% and a work plan deliverable detailing the number of permits to be issued to maintain the 90% permit issuance rate.</p> <p>4. Commitment to meet Region Priority Permit Issuance identified through the EPA Priority Permit Selection Process.</p> <p>5. Assist EPA with the State appropriate phases of planning, conducting and report review for the EPA Region 6 lead Permit Quality Review effort.</p> <p>6. Travel for state staff participation in Region 6 MS4 Operators Conference</p> |
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| <p><b><i>Enforcement and Compliance</i></b></p>                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to work towards implementation of e-reporting.</li> <li>2. Continue to educate and train regulated community.</li> <li>3. Continue to develop e-reporting tools or use EPA tools (NetDMR, NeT)</li> </ol>   |
| <p><b>Priority Area</b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EPA/ADEQ FY 18 Ground Water Program Priorities</b></p>   |
| <p><b><i>Source Water Protection Plans</i></b></p>                           | <p>The Region recommends that states continue to develop source water protection plans. These are protection plans for ground water and surface water bodies that serve as a source for drinking water.</p>  |
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